Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
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Louis Repetto, President — Mary McIvor, Editor

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Tuesday, February 21, 1978--Margaret van Sickle of the Orinda Historical Society will speak on "The History of Orinda". Mrs. van Sickle has developed a new program which has found great success in the Orinda schools; this promises to be a delightful evening!

The program will be held at the Lafayette School Auditorium, commencing at 8:00 p.m.

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LAFAYETTE- -NUMBER 1

All the T-shirts have been sold; a profit of more than $450.00 was made! This money will be placed in a fund to be used in restoring the 1919 Model T Ford fire engine--"Old Betsy". Further donations to the fund bring it to more than $740.00.

The Society wishes to thank Drs. Dittmer and Mattka for their generous contribution to the Fire Engine Fund.

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SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Now on display at Lafayette Federal Savings and Loan are belt buckles from Andrew Picard's collection. These interesting buckles represent several years of collecting by Picard and include many interesting historical examples.

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HOUGH LETTERS

The Board of Directors of the Lafayette Historical Society voted recently to arrange to have typewritten copies made of the fascinating letters of Orlando and Emma Hough. Orlando Hough settled in Lafayette in the early 1860's and wrote many letters describing the day-to-day events of life in Lafayette in those times. He also described the gold fever still prevalent in California and told of his crossing of the Isthmus of Panama. The following is a quotation from a letter Orlando Hough wrote in March, 1862:

"...A man come down here the other eve and offered five dollars to have two trunks taken over to Oakland (that is 8 miles from here). Not having anything urgent to do at home I told him I would go down for him in the morning; in the morning I

caught a horse and went up where the trunks were, tied them together, put one on one side and one on the other and away we started over the mountains following what the Californians call a trail. Novel writers call them mountain passes and York State people would call them cow paths, and I call them bad places to go with a horse in a wet time. One man lost a fine horse last Tuesday going over the same place where I did a few days previous. He had what we call a green horse or in other words a city horse that wasn't used to the mountains. In the widest places these passes are not more than 2 feet wide and as a general thing they are not more than one foot wide--his horse stepped out of the path a little and rolled down the mountain some 75 or 100 feet. You will see by this...that the mountains are a little slantindicular here."

Copies of the Hough Letters will be placed in the Historical Society files; they should prove most rewarding to all who are interested in Lafayette history.

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CONGRATULATIONS

To Society President, Louis Repetto and his new bride--our very best wishes!

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MEMBERSHIP

It's time to renew your membership in the Lafayette Historical Society--let's each invite a friend to join this year, too! Remember that memberships are tax deductible.

Just fill in the application below and mail it with your check in the enclosed envelope.